

REMARKS

The Office rejected claims 13-15 under 35 USC 102(e) in view of Meth (USP 6,393,583) and claims 1-4, 7-12, 19, and 22-26 under 35 USC 103(a) in view of Meth and Hirayama (USP 5,922,078). The Office indicated that claims 5-6, 16-18, and 20-21 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Applicant has canceled all of the rejected claims and has amended the remaining claims to place them in independent form. Applicant asks the Office to reconsider this application and allow all of the remaining claims.

Please charge any fees that might be due, including the fee for a three-month extension of time, but excluding the issue fee, to deposit account 50-1673.

Date: 6/22/04

Respectfully,



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